

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated March 26, 2007. Claims 1-3 and 5-18 are pending in the application. Claim 4 was cancelled previously and remains cancelled, and claims 1-2, 9 and 12-16 have been amended in a manner that Applicant believes overcomes the rejection in the Office Action. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the specification and figures of the present disclosure and recite aspects of the disclosure that Applicant is believed to be entitled. Applicant submits that no new matter or issues are introduced by the amendments.

Objections to the Claims

The Examiner rejected claims 5, 7 and 9 because of informalities. In line 3 of claim 5, line 1 of claim 7 and in line 2 of claim 9, "slit" was written instead of "slot". Applicant respectfully submits that the correct language in these claims is in fact "slit". One skilled in the art would appreciate that "slit" is commonly used in the art. In addition, Applicant submits amendments to claims 1-2, 9, 12-13 to reflect the use of "slit" instead of "slot". Applicant submits that this was a mere typographical error. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 5, 7 and 9 are in condition for allowance.

Claim 14 was objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c) as being in improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Claim 14 has been amended to overcome this rejection. Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph

Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner. The Examiner has pointed out in the specification disclosure that supports the elements of claim 8. See Office Action, page 2, line 22 – page 3, line 1, where the Examiner recites "See lines 30 and 31 on page 2, lines 32-34 on page 3, and lines 24-29 on page 4 of the specification." In that citation, the specification discloses "the means of selection of the Raman energy include a holographic filter which stops the wavelength of excitation"; and "The apparatus also contains

means for selecting 23 the Raman energy which are placed preferably in front of said detector 22”; and “The means of selection of the Raman energy also include a holographic filter 28 stopping the laser ray. Said filter is placed between the detector 22 and the focal plane, preferably in front of the detector 22, it enables to stop the laser ray diffused by the sample 17 as well as the laser energy diffused by the laser 14 inside the spectrometer.” Applicant submits that this disclosure in the specification clearly provides support for claim 8, which recites “The Raman spectrometry apparatus of claim 1 wherein the spectral dispersion system comprises a holographic filter for blocking the wavelength of excitation.” Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 15-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention and for lacking antecedent basis. Claims 15-16 have been amended to overcome this rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-3, 6, 10-13 and 17 are allowed over the prior art of record. Applicant thanks the Examiner for allowing the above mentioned claims.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 – 3 and 5 – 18 presently pending in the application are believed to be in condition for allowance and patentably distinguish over the art of record. An early notice thereof is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner should have any questions concerning this communication or feels that an interview would be helpful, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicant's undersigned attorney.

Please charge any deficiency as well as any other fee(s) which may become due at any time during the pendency of this application, or credit any overpayment of such fee(s) to Deposit Account No. 50-0369. Also, in the event any extensions of time for responding are required for the pending application(s), please treat this paper as a petition to extend the time as required and charge Deposit Account No. 50-0369 therefore.

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Respectfully submitted,



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